



Center for Youth Leadership

Why wait for someone else to make a difference?

Connecticut Legislature Joint Committee on Education Testimony in Support of HB 6494 February 23, 2009

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Good afternoon Senator Gaffey, Representative Fleischmann, and members of the committee. My name is Charlotte Sawyer and I am from the Center for Youth Leadership at Brien McMahon High School in Norwalk. My testimony is in support of HB 6494, which amends a state statute to include teen dating violence education in middle schools and high schools.

I am here today on behalf of the 300 members of youth activism programs at Brien McMahon High School, Stamford High School and Greenwich High School.

Joining me is Luke Lomanto from the Mayor's Youth Leadership Council at Stamford High School, and 50 of our members.

Please know that we would not be here today without the support of Senator Toni Boucher, Senator Andrew McDonald, Representative Larry Cafero, and their staff.

The youth groups here today have been raising awareness of teen dating violence since 2004, and with good reason. The statistics from the Connecticut Department of Public Health consistently place Connecticut among the top ten states with the highest rates of physical dating violence.